

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are all of the claims presently pending in the application. Applicants has amended claims 1 and 18 to define the claimed invention more particularly and have amended claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 19-22, 24, 25, and 28-34 for clarity. Applicants have added claim 35 to vary the protection for the claimed invention further.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 1-6, 9-12, 14-19, 22-25, 28-29, and 31-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Miyashita, et al. (JP 2002-150953; hereinafter “Miyashita”). Claims 7, 8, 13, 24, 25, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita. Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita in view of Sakurai, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,821,616; hereinafter “Sakurai”). Claims 21, 26, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita in view of Bocko, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,604,118; hereinafter “Bocko”).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention (e.g., as defined by exemplary claim 1) is directed to plasma display panel equipped with a front substrate and a back substrate facing each other across a discharge space, and with, between the front substrate and the back substrate, a plurality of

row electrode pairs and a plurality of column electrodes extending in a direction intersecting the row electrode pairs to form unit light emitting areas in the respective portions of the discharge space corresponding to the intersections with the row electrode pairs.

The plasma display panel includes, on an area facing the unit light emitting area between the front substrate and the back substrate, a magnesium oxide layer that includes a magnesium oxide crystal capable of emitting a cathode-luminescence emission having a peak within a wavelength range of 200 nm to 300 nm upon being excited by electron beams. The magnesium oxide crystal is exposed to the discharge space (e.g., see Application at paragraph [0009]).

Accordingly, the claimed invention is capable of yielding a greater improvement in the discharge characteristics in the plasma display panel (see Application at paragraph [0006]).

II. THE PRIOR ART REFERENCES

A. The Miyashita Reference

The Examiner alleges that Miyashita teaches the claimed invention of claims 1-6, 9-12, 14-19, 22-25, 28-29, and 31-34. Furthermore, the Examiner alleges that the claimed invention of claims 7, 8, 13, 24, 25, and 30 would have been obvious in view of Miyashita. Applicants submit, however, that Miyashita does not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

That is, Miyashita does not teach or suggest, *“on an area facing the unit light emitting area between the front substrate and the back substrate, a magnesium oxide layer that includes a magnesium oxide crystal capable of emitting a cathode-luminescence emission having a peak within a wavelength range of 200 nm to 300 nm upon being excited by electron*

beams”, as recited in exemplary claim 1, and somewhat similarly recited in exemplary claim 18.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner alleges, “the claim limitation ‘causing a cathode-luminescence emission having a peak within a wavelength range of 200 nm to 300 nm upon being excited by electron beams’ is drawn to a method of operating the claimed PDP and does not further limit the structure of the device explicitly.” (See Office Action dated June 20, 2008 at page 3). The Examiner, however, is clearly incorrect.

That is, the claimed invention recites, inter alia, “*on an area facing the unit light emitting area between the front substrate and the back substrate, a magnesium oxide layer that includes a magnesium oxide crystal capable of emitting a cathode-luminescence emission having a peak within a wavelength range of 200 nm to 300 nm upon being excited by electron beams*”. Accordingly, the claimed invention recites a physical property of the magnesium crystal, and thus, further defines the structure of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the claimed invention is not drawn to the method of operating the claimed PDP.

Furthermore, the Examiner alleges, “that based on the size and configuration of the magnesium oxide crystals disclosed by Miyashita, the magnesium oxide layer of would (*sic*) cause a cathode-luminescence emission having a peak within a wavelength range of 200 nm to 300 nm upon being excited by electron beams.” (See Office Action dated June 20, 2008 at page 3). The Examiner, however, is clearly incorrect.

Applicants submit that the columnar crystal 161 and the seed crystals 163 formed by vacuum evaporation in Miyashita cannot emit a CL emission having a peak within a wavelength range of 200 nm to 300 nm upon excitation by an electron beam, and there is no teaching or suggestion in Miyashita to support that the columnar crystal 161 and the seed

crystals 163 can emit a CL emission having a peak within a wavelength range of 200 nm to 300 nm upon excitation by an electron beam (see 1.132 Declaration filed simultaneously herewith). The data submitted with the 1.132 Declaration filed simultaneously herewith establishes this assertion.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that the Examiner has not provided any proof that MgO crystals disclosed in Miyashita emit CL emission with a peak wavelength of 200nm to 300nm by being excited by an electron beam. The opinion that magnesium oxide crystal having the size disclosed in Miyashita inherently emits CL emission with a peak wavelength of 200nm to 300nm by being excited by an electron beam is merely the unsupported opinion of the Examiner.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Miyashita does not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

B. The Secondary References

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have combined Sakurai with Miyashita to teach the claimed invention of claims 7, 8, 13, 24, 25, and 30. Furthermore, the Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have combined Bocko with Miyashita to teach the claimed invention of claims 21, 26, and 27. Applicants submit, however, that, even if combined, the alleged combination of references would not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

Applicants submit that claims 7, 8, 13, 21, 24-27, and 30 are allowable at least based on similar reasons to those set forth above, in section A, with respect to claims 1-19, 22-25,

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and 28-34.

Therefore, Applicants submit that, even if combined, the alleged combinations of references would not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

IV. NEW CLAIMS

Applicants have added new claim 35 to claim additional features of the invention and to vary the protection for the claimed invention further. This claim is independently patentable because of the novel and nonobvious features recited therein.

Applicants submit that new claim 35 is patentable over the cited prior art references at least for analogous reasons to those set forth above with respect to claims 1-34.

V. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

Applicants submit herewith a replacement drawing sheet including Figure 7. This replacement drawing sheet replaces the drawing sheet that previously included Figure 7.

Applicants have amended the claims (e.g., claims 33 and 34) in a manner believed fully responsive to the Examiner's objections.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-35, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance,

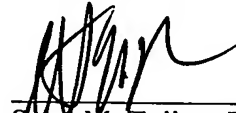
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Applicants requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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